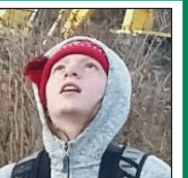




25 Years of New Deal Café, p.7



Bird Count on January 1, p.12

Sorority Chapter Honors MLK Memory with Day of Service

by Racine Tucker-Hamilton

In observance of the 25th anniversary of the Martin Luther King Day of Service, the Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority held its Back to Basics: Meeting the Needs of Our Community event. On January 20 more than 200 members of the sorority worked side by side with local students and community members sorting and packaging canned goods, hygiene products and clothing for those living with homelessness and food insecurity. The event was held at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS).

“The primary focus of this day is to uplift the theme of ‘A day on, not a day off’ and to serve together as a community,” said Benita Swindell, sorority chapter president. “Alpha Kappa Alpha’s motto is supreme service to all mankind and it’s important that we begin by serving in our local communities.”

Hundreds of canned goods and healthy food items, hygiene products, and men’s and women’s clothing will be distributed to



PHOTO BY RACINE TUCKER-HAMILTON

From left, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter President Benita Swindell, ERHS student volunteer Kristiana Mateo, and vice president Cassandra Jones sort items at the MLK day of service in Greenbelt.

three local organizations: Oaklands Elementary School in Laurel, Laurel area shelters, Bowie Interfaith Pantry and Emergency Aid Fund.

“I volunteered today because I wanted to help my commu-

nity and do something good to start off my year,” said Kristiana Mateo, an 18-year-old ERHS student.

One student hoped her See **SERVICE**, page 8

Greenbelt Library Reopens After Renovations Completed

by Michelle Siegel

The Greenbelt Library reopened to the public on Tuesday, January 21 for the first time since renovations, including recarpeting, shelving replacement and the addition of new furniture, began on November 25.

More than a dozen patrons congregated outside the main entrance of the facility, which is part of the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System, in

the minutes before the doors were unlocked. Several of them said they had frequented the library prior to its temporary closure.

Greenbelt resident Ron Roundy commented, “I’ve always looked at their books and magazines – what magazines they had; they don’t have every magazine – but, when I had my TV fixed, I sought out a lot of their good, free rentals for the DVDs.

I caught up on a lot of stuff I missed. And the internet access is nice.” During the renovations, Roundy said that he began going to the New Carrollton Library, which previously underwent renovations in 2018, and the Hyattsville Library which moved to a temporary location in 2017.

Other patrons, such as Greenbelter Annie Shaw, also explored alternate locations. “I tried Laurel and they have a beautiful building, beautiful grounds, not a whole lot of books, but a lot of space with a lot more computer stuff, though,” Shaw said. “Then I went to Beltsville because that is actually quicker than Laurel.”

According to Area Manager Luis Labra, all Greenbelt Library staff members were able to work at other branch libraries during the renovation period, and the several staff members who were temporarily reassigned to the Beltsville Library “reported they saw a lot of Greenbelt people go there, and the activity level at Beltsville definitely went up.”

Once inside the newly-renovated library, patrons are treated to an updated children’s section which now features shelves with leaf-patterned end panels, and a refurbished main section of the library which features new,

See **LIBRARY**, page 9



PHOTO BY MICHELLE SIEGEL

In the children’s section of the newly reopened library, Kevin Mckee and his 2-year-old daughter, Olivia, read a book.

Greenbelter Billy Smith Dies In Stabbing During Break-in

by Amy Hansen

Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web www.greenbeltnewsreview.com.

On January 17, Billy Owens Smith made pancakes with his youngest daughter Layla in their home on Mandan Road. Layla and her sister then left for school. Their mom, Kristina, went to work. That meant that only Smith, 41, and their teenage son Kadin, a 2018 graduate of Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS), were home when in-

truders tried to break in around 10:30 a.m. By the time Kadin reached his father, Smith had been stabbed. The intruders fled.

Police administered first aid and transported Smith to University of Maryland Prince George’s Hospital. Smith died at the hospital and Greenbelt lost a husband, father of three and coach.

“He died a hero,” said his wife Kristina, a teacher in Prince George’s Schools and longtime Greenbelter. “It is a great loss,

See **SMITH**, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAMILY

Billy Smith coached hundreds of children in Greenbelt in football and basketball.

Local Boxer Amelia Moore Vies For the U.S. Olympic Boxing Team

by Brogan Gerhart

Amelia Moore brings a little bit of home with her wherever she goes. Whether she’s in Greenbelt or Colorado Springs, city of the U.S. Olympic Training Center, Moore can be found whisking pancake mix and cooking food from her personal Mason jars for herself and everyone around her.

“My teammates laugh,” Moore said. “I always make pancakes. I’ve got my kettle and my Tupperware containers and I’m always cooking for myself and my teammates while traveling.”

This is Moore’s second Olympic run. In 2015, she made the Olympic qualifying tournament for the Rio 2016 games in Brazil, but had to withdraw before competing due to illness. She took almost eight months to recover.

“As boxers, we never take a day off,” Moore said. “I started working my regular job during that time and I remember sitting at my desk and I just was so bitter. Not bitter because I didn’t get my chance, but because I’d seen another world that I knew I was supposed to be part of.”

She had been the last seed, in eighth position, to qualify in 2015. From having competed in 14 fights before her first Olympic run, Moore now has over

80 under her belt. This includes international experience in five different countries and an international championship title. Now, Moore enters the Olympic trials in 2020 as the second seed.

“It was never a question,” she said, when asked about when Tokyo 2020 had become a reality for her. “[In 2016], once my energy came back, I found my fire again and that’s when I knew that this journey was not over, it had just begun.”

Although she is still in the Olympic qualification process, Moore is hopeful that she’ll be the single competitor chosen from

See **MOORE**, page 11

What Goes On

Monday, January 27
8 p.m. City Council Meeting, Municipal Building
Wednesday, January 29
8 p.m. City Council Work-session, City Manager Update, Community Center

See city ad on page 5 for Black History Month activities.

Letters to the Editor

Opening Our Eyes

Thank you GNR for being a source to manifest our gratitude of the many blessings of living in this city. Today I am brought to tears by the article offered by Graeme Simpson. Like donning a pair of reading glasses, he helps me see what is right before my eyes. Easy for me, but so much time and energy goes into this resource freely given to others.

I love Greenbelt for the richness this vital verdant sash presents my senses daily. Through Graeme's photos I am treated to an up-close moment with the cast of characters who weave this wonder that I take for granted daily. I have had the pleasure of meeting this devoted artist at our lake and am always impressed by his support of our community and other photographers.

In this day and age when our environment is in a state of emergency, it was easy for me to feel concern about the effects on nature from the work on the dam. Now, thanks to Graeme's article, I see the folly of human judgment and again feel uplifted by the wonders of nature. I offer heartfelt gratitude to Graeme.

Sue Stern

Thank You

We want to thank our customers and neighbors for the tips that we received for delivering the News Review. We really appreciate them. Since you were so generous, we would like to tell you how we will be using the money. Most of it will go to our college funds, and some we will use to take care of our pets, which are two guinea pigs and two dogs.

We also want to let our customers know we have an improvement to our delivery. We have worried that our customers may not realize that their News Review has arrived, especially when it is already dark in winter when we deliver on Thursday nights. So our mom helped us buy a cowbell to tie on our red wagon. Now when you hear the cowbell on Thursday night, you know that your News Review has arrived!

Lien and Maya Gareri
(ages 11 and 10)

Postscript: Jim Link

Many people knew Jim Link better than I. I knew him first through a friend, then the News Review and as a student taking SAGE classes, where his amazing breadth of knowledge of literature was on display. I soaked up everything he was willing to share. He was witty, funny, wise, self-deprecating and always joyful.

The main ingredient we shared was respect. He was such a humble guy and always treated me with great respect. My respect for him, other than his remarkable mind, was his gentlemanly, non-judgmental way of treating people. Joie de vivre was always part of reviews of plays and movies, well, sometimes a tad too much joie. Every time my brother, Rick Ransom, wrote an In Memoriam piece, Jim would take the time to email me in his signature huge print to praise Rick's rendition of people he knew growing up in Greenbelt.

I will miss his laugh, his big heart and ever-present love of life.

Respectfully,

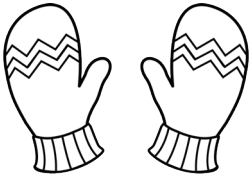
Judy Bell

Thanks

Many thanks to the organizers and volunteers of January's Reel and Meal, Dawnland, a documentary that "tells the story of the removal of Native American children from their homes in Maine, and the trailblazing Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission that was formed to begin the process of healing, cooperation, and justice." This was the first Reel and Meal I had attended. Watching the movie, I felt shocked, disappointed, sad, angry and astonished to learn of this cultural genocide.

Thanks to the Bahá'í Community of Greenbelt who sponsored this event as part of their continuing efforts to stimulate community discourse about values embraced by the Bahá'í Faith.

Li'l Dan Celdran



Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

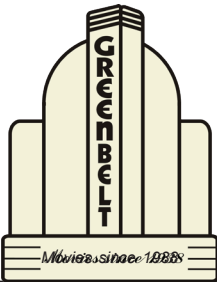
The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send "actual size", or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



Drop Us a Line!

Electronically, that is.
editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com



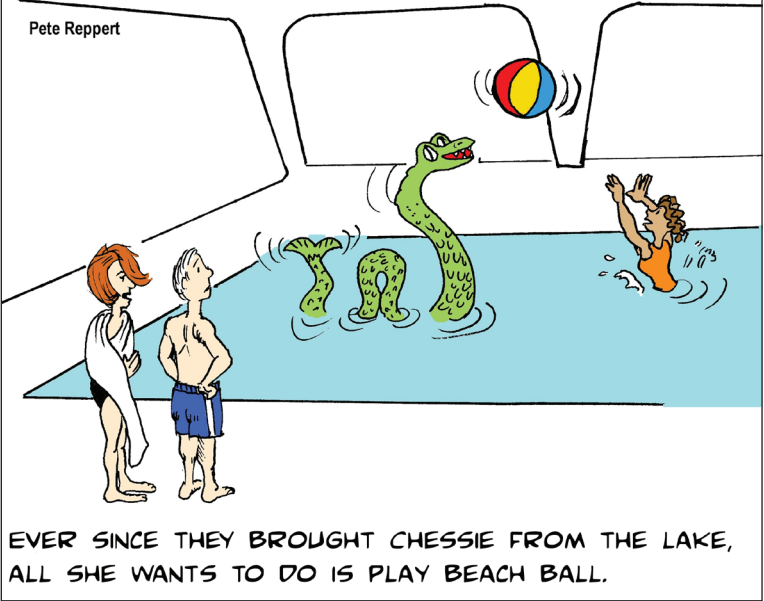
Old Greenbelt Theatre
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Members Always \$6.50!
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All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5
OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES
January 24th - 30th

The Auditorium
JUST MERCY (PG-13)(CC)
(DVS)(2019)(137 mins)
Fri. 2:30, 5:30, 8:30 PM
Sat. 1:30, 4:30,
7:30 PM (w/guest speaker)
Sun. 2:30(OC), 5:30,
8:30 PM
Mon. 5:30, 8:30 PM
Tues. 5:30, 8:30 PM
Wed. 2:30, 5:30, 8:30 PM
Thurs. 5:30, 8:30 PM

Storytime on Screen
Mon. 10:30 AM - FREE!

The Pop-Up
1917 (R)(CC)(DVS)
(2019)(119 mins)
Fri. 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 PM
Sat. 2:00(OC), 5:00,
8:00 PM
Sun. 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 PM
Mon. 5:00, 8:00 PM
Tues. 5:00, 8:00 PM
Wed. 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 PM
Thurs. 5:00, 8:00 PM



Letters Policy

The News Review reserves the right not to publish any letter submitted. Letters are considered accepted when published.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider withholding the name upon request.

All letters are subject to editing for reasons of space, libel, privacy, taste, copyright and clarity.

Se Habla Español

Vaya a nuestra página web greenbeltnewsreview.com para ver artículos en español.
See our website, greenbeltnewsreview.com, for articles in Spanish.



LOVE NOTES
are coming!



See ad on page 8

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Community Calendar: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/calendar

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CIRCULATION Circulation Coordinator: Karen Yoho circ@greenbeltnewsreview.com
Greenbelt East: Contact Condominium Homeowner's Association
Circulation and Distribution information also available at:
www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/contact-us/distribution/

Published weekly since 1937 by the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Inc

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DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and Classified Ads - 8 p.m. Tuesday. Display Ads 4 p.m. Monday, 8 p.m. Tuesday if camera ready. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$50/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 10 p.m.



Councilmember Leta Mach attends the Women's March 2020 in Washington, D.C. on January 18.

PHOTO BY DARRELL MACH

On Screen

Film update for January 23, 2020:
Just Mercy continues in the Auditorium.
1917 continues in the Pop-up.

- Sandy Rodgers

Community Events



PHOTO BY CHRISSE WILKIN

One of the pieces in the new art display at the Municipal Building, “Stonewall,” by ERHS 10th grader Alex Young

ERHS Has Reception For Artwork Display

An opening reception will be held on Monday, January 27 for a new display of artwork by Eleanor Roosevelt High School students at the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. The event takes place in City Council chambers on the second floor, from 7 to 8 p.m. Follow the link at greenbeltmd.gov/arts to RSVP.

Featured artists include Julia Groen, Ryan Mesidor, Irene Moy, Saira Rashid, Travis Hansen, Kamlani Sittman, Zada Prout, Jamie Voytsekhovska and Alex Young. The exhibit was curated by ERHS instructor Chrissy Wilkin and is presented by the Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program. It will remain on view through March 16. Visitors are welcome Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. whenever the room is not reserved. To confirm the schedule, email Anne Marie Belton at abelton@greenbeltmd.gov.

Astronomical Society Meeting on Thursday

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will meet on Thursday, January 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center in Room 114. The speaker will be Dr. Nicholas Schmerr from the University of Maryland, who will discuss his research about seismology in Greenland and on Jupiter’s moon Europa. All are welcome to attend.

February Art Share

Local artists are invited to meet up on Sunday, February 16 from 2 to 3 p.m. in Room 113 of the Community Center. This free event is for teens and adults. Bring one to three pieces in any medium and join in a constructive and informal discussion of everyone’s work. All experience levels welcome.

Toastmasters Meet

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club will meet on Wednesday, January 29, at 7:30 p.m. in the Social Hall of Greenbelt Community Church at Hillside and Crescent Roads. The group offers professionals, students, stay-at-home parents and retirees a supportive environment to improve skills in communication and leadership. For more information call 240-542-8625.



Menu for Senior Nutrition Program

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunches for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at noon. Meals must be reserved by 11 a.m. two days ahead so that enough food is ordered. Call 301-397-2208 ext. 4215.

All meals, which provide at least one-third of Recommended Dietary Allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk. Menus for the week of January 27 are as follows:

Monday, January 27: teriyaki meatballs, confetti rice, sliced carrots, pineapple tidbits, orange juice

Tuesday, January 28: beef hot dog, corn casserole, pear cobbler, coleslaw, cranberry juice

Wednesday, January 29: beef tamale stew, roasted diced potatoes, hot spiced fruit, mixed green salad, cornbread muffin, cranberry juice

Thursday, January 30: baked chicken leg with honey balsamic sauce, braised lentils, mixed vegetables, tropical fruit, apple juice

Friday, January 31: breaded pollock, potato wedges, broccoli, fresh fruit, fruit punch.

GHI Bike Committee Holds Social January 25

The GHI Bicycle Committee will hold a social event on Saturday, January 25 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the board room of the GHI office building on Hamilton Place. Refreshments will be served. Questions? Email John Campanile, jbelltower@yahoo.com.

Post-Show Discussion Of Just Mercy at OGT

Imagine yourself on death row, hearing the clang of doors echoing as prisoners are led to the electric chair. Imagine that you are innocent, but no one believes you. This is the compelling story of Just Mercy, a movie based on the experiences of a young lawyer who makes it his life’s mission to review death penalty cases in the South. Bryan Stevenson authored the book of his experiences freeing unjustly convicted men, women, youth and persons with intellectual disabilities, convicted and sentenced to life-in-prison with no chance of parole.

Just Mercy is playing at the Old Greenbelt Theatre. After the 7:30 p.m. showing on Saturday, January 25, Rivers of Life AME will host a panel discussion with Dr. Harold Trulear, national director of Healing Communities, whose mission is to equip churches to become advocates for persons and families impacted by mass incarceration and Will Schwarz, an independent television producer, writer and director based in Baltimore. Schwartz is the Founder and President of the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project, which seeks to advance reconciliation by documenting the history of lynchings, advocating for public acknowledgement of these murders and working to honor and dignify the lives of the victims.

Recycle Food Scraps At Hot Composting

Learn how to recycle food scraps at the hot compost station near Springhill Lake Recreation Center on Saturday, February 1. Join with neighbors to participate in a system that turns food scraps and wood chips into compost. Keep food scraps from creating methane at the landfill. Instead, return them to the earth to nurture new plants and flowers.

A free 90-minute training session will be held on Saturday, February 1 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Additional trainings will occur on March 7 and April 4 at the same time and place.

To participate and sign up for training, apply online at this address: bit.ly/GBComposting. Questions can be sent to GreenbeltNeighborhoodCompost@gmail.com.

Make 3-D Shadow Box at Workshop

Make something truly special for Valentine’s Day this year. Join Rachel Cross, artist in residence and acclaimed assemblage artist, on January 31 and February 7 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Over the course of two Friday evenings, participants will create an intriguing 3-D shadow box assemblage. The instructor will offer guidance in composition, use of materials, how to choose colors to make images “pop” and technical construction of the art pieces. Participants may bring copies of small photos, greeting cards, fabric, old letters, broken jewelry and other small objects. Shadow box frames, paint, adhesives, balsa wood, specialty papers, images to collage, fabrics, scissors, drawing and painting implements and a variety of small objects will be provided. Advance registration and fees required. Visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts or email alarsen@greenbeltmd.gov for more information.

Korean Workshops At Eleanor Roosevelt

The Korean Education Center in D.C. is offering a fifth phase of free Korean workshops at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in temporary classroom 19. Topics will include Korean language and Korean culture such as calligraphy, paper crafts, K-pop, K-dramas and more.

The workshops intend to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of Korea and its culture in the community, to encourage educators in their interest in learning Korean, to provide an in-depth understanding of the culture and the language, and to play a role as ambassador to bridge the two cultures.

The first interest meeting will be held on Monday, January 27 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Meetings will be every Monday for 12 weeks: February 3, 10, 24; March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; April 20, 27; and May 4.

The program is now open to anyone over 18 years old. Those interested should email Bob Huh at bob.huh@pgcps.org.

GIVES and AARP Offer Tax Help

AARP free tax preparation will be available at the Greenbelt Firehouse on Wednesdays and Thursdays from February 5 until April 15.

Make an appointment by calling the GIVES (Greenbelt Inter-generational Volunteer Exchange Service) office at 301-507-6580 and leaving a message. Someone will call back. Appointments can also be made at the GIVES office in the Community Center Senior Lounge. Once the schedule is filled, a waiting list will be started.

Parents’ Night Out: Snowy Day

Greenbelt Recreation Arts hosts a childcare art activity on the second Friday of every month. The February Parents’ Night Out just happens to fall on Valentine’s Day. Drop the kids at the Community Center and enjoy a relaxing night out. The children will enjoy art activities, a pizza dinner and a movie. Children can be dropped off for all or part of the time. Dinner will be served at 6:15 p.m.

The Friday, February 14 event runs 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. for ages 4 (must be potty trained) to 12. Advance registration and fees required. Sibling discount: additional members of the same household receive a discount. Visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts for more information.

Arts Advisory Board To Meet February 4

The Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, February 4 at 7 p.m. in Room 112 at the Community Center. Topics will include Roosevelt Center lighting, community arts mixer planning, co-ordinated event scheduling and the election of a member representative to the Grant Review Panel. Non-members who wish to attend are encouraged to confirm this before 5 p.m. on the meeting date by writing to ndewald@greenbeltmd.gov.



Program Schedule Friday Jan 24 - Thursday Jan 30

7 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• Community Events • Weekly Updates
8 am	Democracy Now!	• Independent Global News
9 am	GATe Classic Film ★ Drama/Romance • 1940	• His Girl Friday • Cary Grant • Rosalind Russell Made Possible by a Grant from ★ Anonymous Donor ★
11 am	Greenbelt Discussions	• Local Topics & Guests
12 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• Community Events • Weekly Updates
1 pm	Strata	• Cultural Heritage & Archeology
2 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• Community Events • Weekly Updates
3 pm	GATe Classic Film ★ Drama/Romance • 1940	• His Girl Friday • Cary Grant • Rosalind Russell Made Possible by a Grant from ★ Anonymous Donor ★
5 pm	Strata	• Cultural Heritage & Archeology
6 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• Community Events • Weekly Updates
7 pm	Democracy Now!	• Independent Global News
8 pm	GATe Classic Film ★ Drama/Romance • 1940	• His Girl Friday • Cary Grant • Rosalind Russell Made Possible by a Grant from ★ Anonymous Donor ★
10 pm	Democracy Now!	• Independent Global News
11 pm	Greenbelt Discussions	• Local Topics & Guests
12 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• Community Events • Weekly Updates

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Greenbelters were shocked by the tragic death of popular coach Billy Owens Smith on January 17. Condolences to family and friends.

Congratulations to Joyce Chen, a senior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School who is one of the eight Prince George’s County Public School seniors named Posse Scholars and will receive a four-year, full-tuition college scholarship, each worth approximately \$140,000, from the Posse Foundation’s partnering schools. Chen will be attending Bucknell University.

Posse Scholars from across the nation enter colleges and universities in multi-cultural groups of 10 known as posses. Throughout their college career, they will support each other and receive ongoing assistance from the Posse Foundation. Posse Scholars have a 90 percent college graduation rate and demonstrate potential to positively impact their professions.

Congratulations to Haley Hilliard who graduated in the fall 2019 commencement ceremonies in December from the University of Northern Colorado with a Bachelor of Science degree in audiology and speech-language sciences.

Congratulations to Amanda Demos Larsen, who gave birth to Ellen Lynn Summers-Stay on Tuesday, January 21, as a surrogate for her good friends Lesli and Doug Summers-Stay of Frederick. Ellen is healthy and there were no complications with the delivery.

Share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



SMITH continued from page 1

not only for our family, but the whole community.”

Kristina Smith is the daughter of Robert and Dea Zugby, also of Greenbelt. The couple’s middle daughter, Sameera, is on the ERHS basketball team and was in school during the attack.

Kristina Smith, sounding steady even as she was crying, said her husband often told her and their children that he would do anything for them. “And he died protecting his family.”

Smith’s loss quickly rippled through Greenbelt. Over the last decade and a half, Smith has coached hundreds of children in Greenbelt, working in both football and basketball.

By Sunday evening dozens of people from Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club, past and present, coaches from ERHS and members of the Greenbelt Police Department crowded into Springhill Lake Recreation Center to recognize Smith’s big spirit and to start dealing with their grief.

Smith’s parents, Bill and Terry Smith of Berlin, Maryland, told Channel WUSA9 that the healing started when they walked in the door and saw all those who were willing to drop everything and get to the impromptu gathering to show they cared about Smith.

The Zugbys told the same news crew that they lost a son. In their minds, son-in-law was too distant a term; he was their son.

Greenbelt Mayor Colin Byrd said that he was deeply saddened by Smith’s unexpected death. Byrd said that Smith “was a beloved member of the Greenbelt community and a very impactful coach. Kids’ lives are better because he was in their lives.”

Herbert Allen, the coach of Greenbelt’s Lady Angels and a center manager for Springhill Lake Recreation Center, said he had known Smith for many years. Allen was not surprised by the large number of people who showed up on Sunday. “I will really miss him,” he said.

Smith and his wife met at Salisbury University where they formed a tight bond not only between themselves, but also with two other couples. The members of this group sent notes promising to help take care of the Smith family.

Kristina Smith said she wanted everyone to know how much the outpouring of support means to her and her family. “I can’t respond to every text, call, email, note,” she said, though she is trying. “But it means a lot to us knowing how much he meant to other people.”

Friends of the family have set up a gofundme project for a Billy Owens Smith memorial at gofundme.com/f/billy-smith-memorial-fund. The outpouring has been stupendous. In the first day, the fund raised more than \$9,000.



My Memory of Meeting Billy Owens Smith

I depend on paratransit, but it has a tendency to get me to places early. So, I end up sitting around a lot. I am blind, so often I’m just left listening. Rarely is my reverie broken by a stranger speaking to me. But that’s how I met Billy Smith. The Community Relations Advisory Board meets at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center and as I waited for other members to show up, this guy comes over and starts talking to me. I ask his name. “Billy Owens Smith,” he says. I guess with Smith being such a common name, he threw in the Owens. I use mnemonics to remember names and so I said “so your initials are B-O-S, so you’re the boss-man.” He quipped, “I’m married and my boss is at home.” Good-bye Boss-man.

- Rev. Ray Raysor



Kristina and Billy Smith

PHOTO COURTESY OF FAMILY

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt



Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors
Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)
301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor



Worship Service 10 a.m.
Moses was first to download instructions on a tablet from the Cloud.



“Truthfulness and sincerity have always been the ornament of a man’s character, and so they shall ever be.” – Bahá’í Writings

Greenbelt Bahá’í Community

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Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
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Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe

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Council Holds Worksession With Roosevelt Merchants

by Kathleen Gallagher

On January 6, the Greenbelt City Council met in a worksession with representatives of a number of the member businesses of the Roosevelt Center Merchants Association (RCMA). Marc (Kap) Kapastin and Susan Walker, representing the Greenbelt Community Development Corporation, also attended the meeting.

Mayor Colin Byrd asked to go around the room for introductions and to hear brief updates about the RCMA and its member businesses.

Caitlin McGrath, executive director of the Old Greenbelt Theatre and chair of RCMA, thanked the city for leaving the holiday lights up in the Center after the trees and other decorations were taken down. She said they create a magical holiday mood that people appreciate. In addition to plans for the theater, she described a number of activities for the Center, the most immediate one being “I Heart Roosevelt Center,” coming up for Valentine’s Day.

RCMA is emphasizing reaching out to a wider area and is interested in the ongoing discussions about additional signage. They have also developed a logo and are planning to create banners to mark the location of the Center. Councilmember Judith Davis said she would like to see the holiday lights kept up in the Center through Valentine’s Day if possible.

Councilmember Emmett Jordan asked how many of the Center businesses are members of RCMA. McGrath said about a dozen, but only five or six come to the monthly meetings. She added that they may cut their regular meetings back to every other month.

David Muse, the new chief executive officer of the Greenbelt Federal Credit Union, said one thing he is considering is starting to offer business lending, which the Credit Union does not currently do. He is also exploring partnering with the Credit Union Mortgage Association (CUMA) to be able to offer 30-year mortgages for GHI houses, since the Credit Union is currently limited to 15-year loans.

Davis asked Muse about a problem reported at a prior meeting involving people loitering and smoking in the area in front of the Credit Union. Muse said he was not aware of a problem, adding that there have been improvements in lighting, including a very bright strobe light, which might have made a difference.

Davis also asked if there was any possibility that they might eventually have Saturday hours. He said they are in general looking at making some changes in

their hours, but he is also very conscious of maintaining a good life balance for the people who work there. Saturday is a possibility. As it stands, they are open later on Friday nights than other banks in the area, so he is also considering cutting that time back somewhat and staying open a little later during the rest of the week. He plans to look more closely at their own records on traffic and usage, however, before making any changes.

Michael Hartman, Dorian Winter and Diana McFadden were present on behalf of the board of the New Deal Café. Hartman announced that the Café is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year and plans to have many events. His biggest announcement, however, was that the Café will no longer be open for lunch and will not open until 5 p.m. during the week. According to Hartman, this was a business decision made by DC Vegan, the contracting company that manages the kitchen and dining room, because there is not enough daytime traffic in the Center. Hartman added that they would be re-evaluating the situation in the future.

Hartman and Winter stressed that the New Deal Café cooperative is doing well in terms of memberships and funding, and the music activities are thriving. The Reel and Meal will continue, as will the Art Gallery, which will feature local artists from February 6 to 12.

Gretchen Schock, the owner of Bee Yoga Fusion, said they have been in Greenbelt for 10 years now. They operate on a membership basis and have 76 members. They have organized or participated in many community activities. This year they participated in Toys for Tots for the first time. They work with first-time homeowners and with young adults who are growing out of the foster care system. Davis remembers that Schock had brought up concerns with the homeless situation in the area of Roosevelt Center at night at the last meeting and asked if there were still complaints. Schock replied that that was much less of an issue now.

General Manager Bob Davis represented the Greenbelt Co-op

See COUNCIL, page 8

New Deal Café Celebrates 25 Years of Food, Music and Art

by Mark Cheater

From humble beginnings in a room at Greenbelt’s Community Center in 1995, the New Deal Café has grown into a premier music and arts venue, serving food, craft beer and wine.

“Twenty-five years and we’re still here,” said local resident and musician Katy Gaughan. “Now that I’m a member and a volunteer at the café, I know how much community effort goes into making the café a success. I think it’s that community spirit that makes the café so special. It is one of my favorite places and one of the reasons I moved to Greenbelt. I hope we’re around for 25 more years and continue to be a place where people have so much fun!”

To celebrate the New Deal’s silver anniversary, there are many exciting events planned, including a special happy hour on Saturday, January 25 from 5 to 7 p.m. along with fundraising and membership drives. Visit the website at newdealcafe.com/25th to learn more.

History

For years, Greenbelters caught up with their neighbors at places like the grocery store and the gasoline station – less-than-ideal locations for chatting and relaxing. Greenbelt needed a coffee house. This being a town with cooperative housing and several co-op businesses, the café was planned in the same tradition. It would be staffed with volunteers and directed by a member-elected board.

A group of volunteers brought the vision to fruition and on December 31, 1995, the café opened in the Community Center. Initially open just on Friday and Saturday nights, the café offered light meals, desserts, coffee and free live music.

In October 1999, a storefront space came available in the Roosevelt Center. The board decided the time had come to make the New Deal a full-time venture. In April 2000, the dream was realized with the opening of the “new” New Deal Café in its current front room. In the years that followed, the café expanded into the back room to offer music that spans a wide range of styles.

Events

There are a number of events planned throughout 2020 to cel-

brate the café’s 25th anniversary, including special happy hours, drum circles, art and music shows, an outdoor festival and much more. See the ad on page 9 for more details.

Future Goals

The café has come a long way in 25 years, but there’s more to do. The cooperative is constantly striving to improve its music and art offerings, food and drink selections and looking for other ways to grow the business.

Some parts of the historic building that houses the café are badly in need of upgrades or replacement. A picture window on the front of the building was bricked up years ago and could be replaced. Environmentally-focused projects, such as installing solar panels or a green roof or both will be explored. The kitchen, office and sound equipment need to be repaired and replaced regularly.

The café also has a substantial debt that must be paid. Members would like to set up an endowment to ensure the café survives and thrives for the next 25 years, perhaps in a building they own instead of rent. All of these projects require money and volunteers.

From its founding, the New Deal Café has been a member-owned, volunteer-run, not-for-




New Deal Café 25 Year Logo

profit cooperative. As part of the café’s 25th anniversary project, they are striving to expand the member base and financial resources. The goals are to add at least 250 new members and raise \$250,000 in 2020. Those interested in supporting the café in ways other than by donating money may also make in-kind contributions such as volunteering to be a bartender or sound engineer, or helping with marketing or fundraising.

Those interested in becoming members should visit newdealcafe.com/about-us/become-a-member.


Mark Cheater is a board member of the New Deal Café.



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COUNCIL continued from page 7

Supermarket. Noting that their Rays on the Roof project is their most obvious new activity, he said they will be ready to install the solar panels soon. They have had financial problems for the last several years. So far this year, they are running about two percent behind where they were last year, but that is better than the prior year. They are going to try adjusting their hours and will be opening at 7 a.m., starting around the end of February. Also, by the end of February, shoppers will be able to order online and come in to pick up curbside. By the end of March, they expect to have a service that does delivery. Whether they will continue will depend on how much the services are used. Ways people can help, if they wish, is to make a donation as they check out. Judith Davis added that paying in cash or by check also saves fees.

Jordan asked how long it would take to complete the Rays on the Roof project. Bill Jones, president of the Co-op board, replied that the installation of the solar panels will require permits, which will take some time, as will the last step of getting hooked up by Pepco. He added that when everything is operative, the financial problems will be somewhat relieved by a reduction in their costs of up to \$40,000 per year.

Speaking for the Greenbelt Arts Center, Konrad Herling said they are making progress with the mold problem in the building but are still short on money to finish the work. He would like to see the Arts Center branch out to other types of performance than the play schedule alone, as had originally been envisioned for the Center. He added, however, that their music would be complementary to that of the Café.

The last to speak was Brandon Cole, who with his wife, Taylor, owns Choice Clinical Service, a community-based therapy practice

serving individuals, couples and families. They live in Greenbelt and have been located at the Center since 2016. Cole said they are very pleased with working in Greenbelt and since opening here have opened two additional offices in College Park.

Charise Liggins, the city's economic development coordinator, was also present. The group thanked the city for providing her services and thanked her for attending their meetings as well.

City Notes

The artwork of Artist-in-residence Chris Corson is featured in a solo show in the Community Center Art Gallery. There was an opening reception on Friday, January 17.

Horticulture/Parks removed a dead tree at Northway playground and a dead red oak on Breezewood Drive, and pruned and removed downed tree limbs.

Refuse/Recycling collected 27.85 tons of refuse and 11.99 tons of recyclable material.

Mom's Morning Out preschoolers visited the Old Greenbelt Theatre for Storytime on Screen and learned about arctic weather and animals.

The Community Center hosted an American Red Cross Blood Drive.

Therapeutic Recreation offered a drop-in Ageless Grace class with Karen Haseley.

Senior Nutrition served 86 hot meals during the week ending January 17.

Well Wishers for the Animals of Greenbelt Shelter (WAGS) helped the Animal Shelter with maintenance in the cat rooms. Shelter residents are one cat and one gecko. The gecko received medical care sponsored by WAGS.

CARES education programs are up and running for the winter session, including welcoming University of Maryland interns for the ESOL and GED classes.

SERVICE continued from page 1

participation would help break down stereotypes about teenagers.

"People from older generations think we are self-absorbed, and I feel like that's not true. I believe that any way you can make a difference and honor the memory of Dr. King, you should, and I just wanted to act on that," said Damaris Moore, a 16-year-old student.

This event supports two of Alpha Kappa Alpha's global programs: Operation AKA Assist which focuses on supporting populations in need, and its Nutrition and Wellness initiative, which highlights healthy lifestyles.



Volunteers help protect trees during the City of Greenbelt 2020 MLK Service Day event.

PHOTO BY SCOTT CRAWFORD

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Police Blotter

*Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department,
www.greenbeltmd.gov/police*

Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Theft

January 10, 8 a.m., Cherrywood Court near Cherrywood Lane. Two people began pushing into a student waiting for the school bus. The student believes that while they were pushing him, one of them removed his wallet from his backpack. Neither of them got on the bus with the student.

January 10, 3:09 p.m., 7500 block Greenbelt Road. A teller at Capital One Bank reported that a man attempted to cash an altered check and then fled.

January 11, 6 p.m., 7500 block Greenbelt Road. An unattended cell phone was taken from a counter at Dollar Tree.

January 11, 6:27 p.m., 7000 block Mathew Street. A man agreed to sell a pair of sneakers using a social media app and then meet to complete the sale in person. The buyer arrived, paid for the sneakers and left. The seller later discovered that the buyer had paid with replica movie-prop money.

January 12, 3:26 a.m., 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace. A man who fell asleep in the hallway of an apartment building believes someone stole his wallet while he was sleeping. A credit card in the wallet was later used in an attempt to purchase merchandise at Shell Food Mart in the 5700 block Cherrywood Lane.

January 14, 8 a.m., 400 block Ridge Road. Clothing was taken from a washing machine in a basement laundry room.

Burglary

January 11, 4:21 a.m., 6100 Greenbelt Road. Officers responded to a report of a burglary in progress inside Target. Officers arrived in time to see three men exit the store and get into a nearby vehicle. They exited the vehicle when they saw officers and ran back into the store. It is believed they fled through the rear doors. The vehicle they had

gotten into was towed and will contribute to the investigation which is ongoing.

Vehicle Crime

A silver 2005 Nissan Maxima was stolen from the 7700 block Hanover Parkway after it was not returned following a test drive prior to purchasing it. A 2013 Ford Fusion reported stolen was located by the owner in the lot from which it had been taken with front end damage.

A 4-door silver 2017 Honda Accord with Maryland tags BR9075 was taken from the 6000 block Breezewood Drive and a gray 2002 Chevrolet Tahoe SUV with Maryland tags 2CE7015 was taken from the 9100 block Edmonston Court.

A 2017 KIA Rio taken from the 100 block Westway was recovered in the 8900 block Heathermore Boulevard in Upper Marlboro by Prince George's County Police after three women took it. The man who reported the theft said he was driving three women he had just met to a club, when he stopped at the home of a friend and left the women in the vehicle. When he returned, his vehicle and the women were gone.

Rear Maryland tags were taken from two vehicles, 4BZ4432 from the 6100 block Breezewood Court and 74020CA from the 100 block Westway. Four tires and rims were taken from one vehicle in the 6600 block Lake Park Drive.

Multiple thefts from vehicles occurred on nine city streets. Windows were broken out in 14 vehicles to gain entry. This included one unlocked and one possibly unlocked vehicles.

Items taken include: hand tools and power tools, carry bag and laptop computer, loose change, identification card, two purses, duffle bag, cell phone, two wallets, and cash.

Man Fatally Stabbed - Information Sought

Greenbelt resident Billy Owens Smith, 41 years old, died on January 17 after officers responded to a report of a fight in progress inside a residence in the 7900 block Mandan Road. A second call, reporting a possible cutting, was received while officers were in route. They found a man with apparent stab wounds, applied first aid and transported him to UM Prince George's Hospital Center where he died.

Initial investigation revealed that three men forced entry into the residence and stabbed Smith during a physical confrontation. They then fled.

As of Tuesday, January 21, the investigation has determined this stabbing is not a random event. One of the men suspected in this crime is described as Hispanic, 5 feet 8 to 5 feet 9 inches tall with a heavy build, curly medium-length hair, wearing all black clothing; next, a brown-skinned man wearing a black hooded sweatshirt; and the third, a black man 5 feet 8 to 5 feet 9 inches tall, with a dark complexion and a slim build, wearing all black clothing. All three men were wearing masks. Police stress that this is an active, ongoing investigation and information can change.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Greenbelt Police Department at 301-474-7200.

LIBRARY continued from page 1

striped carpeting and new shelves
with striped end panels.

Compared to the new shelves, the old shelves were noticeably taller, leaving some patrons worried that some of the Library's book collection had been lost to the renovations.

"I don't really get it," Greenbelter Susan Harris said, regarding the renovations. "I need to study it to figure out what the advantage is. I have yet to explore to see if things I look for are any easier to find than they were."

However, Michael Gannon, chief operating officer for Support Services, said that the renovations did not result in a reduction of books on display. The changes, he said, were only to make the rows feel less claustrophobic and more accessible.

“We actually didn’t lose any linear shelving,” Labra affirmed. “If you had seen them before, we weren’t using the top units because they were too high. So, with these (new shelves), actually, what we found was that it was pretty easy to put stuff back.”

According to Labra, a company had been hired to put all of the books on mobile shelving carts, wrap them and move them downstairs for the duration of renovations.

“The hard part was just labeling everything, and measuring everything, and making sure everything could go back smoothly,” Labra said.

The renovations were completed just in time for the Library, which officially opened in 1970, to take advantage of the occasion to celebrate its 50th anniversary, Labra said.

According to the online events calendar, a celebration featuring refreshments, displays and much more will be held from 1 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7 at the Greenbelt Library.

Michelle Siegel is a graduate student in journalism at the University of Maryland reporting for the News Review.

Dinah Washington's Life Celebrated

African American Women in Music: The Music of Dinah Washington will be presented on Saturday, January 25 at 1 p.m. at the Marietta House Museum in Glenn Dale. Explore the vibrant history of African American Women in Music in a continuous lecture series.

Dinah Washington, 1924-1963, was a popular singer in the 1950s who performed jazz, blues, R & B and traditional pop music. She had her first top-10 pop hit in 1959 with her version of "What a Difference a Day Makes." Washington was inducted into the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame in 1986 and into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1993. For more information, call 301-464-5291 or TTY 301-699-2544. There is a small fee.

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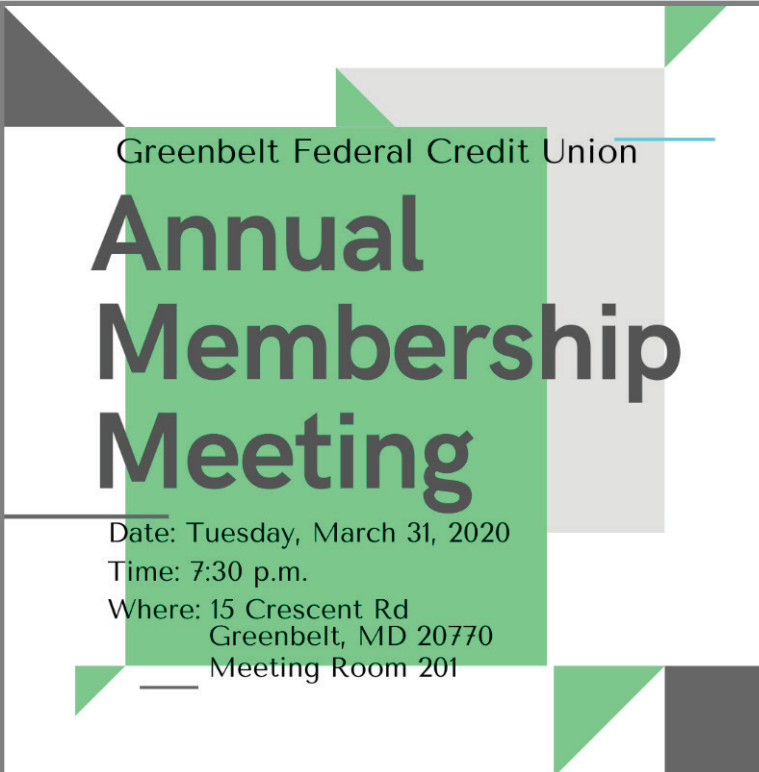
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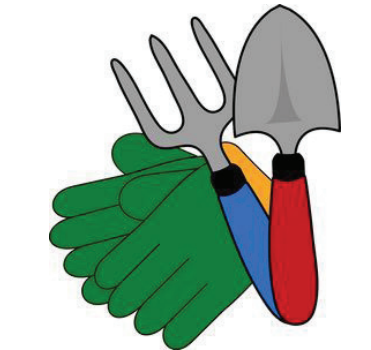
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MOORE continued from page 1

the 60-kg (132-lb) weight class to represent the U.S. Olympic women’s boxing team.

“A good mentor of mine once said, ‘You always shoot for above the goal because that’s how you make it,’” Moore said. “Before it was, ‘I want to go to the Olympics.’ Now, it’s, ‘I will take the gold.’”

Moore said she’s been involved in combative sports for her entire life. Moore began martial arts and competitive karate at age 7 but got the taste for boxing in 2006. She officially started training in 2009.

Moore grew up in Maine, but said her love for the sport really kicked off when she began attending the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. Although the institution did not offer a women’s boxing program, that did not deter Moore from making the trip from Annapolis to Millersville, Md., to train with her coach, the late Thomas Langley, Sr.

“I was sneaking off campus as a sophomore,” Moore recalled, laughing. “I just thought, ‘I know in my heart this is what I’m supposed to be doing,’ so I just kept following it.”

In February 2011, Moore had her first USA Boxing fight. It was the day after her 21st birthday.

She remembered the night of her birthday. “I had to weigh-in the next day and I was like, ‘No, I don’t want to have any alcohol.’ And everyone was like, ‘What is wrong with you?’”

Moore said she’d responded proudly, “I have a fight tomorrow.”

Now, almost a decade after that first fight, Moore said that her passion for boxing has only grown, but experience has changed her motivation in many ways.

“The biggest transition is changing from an emotional standpoint to fighting always in the honor and memory of other people,” Moore said. Langley died in 2015 during Moore’s first Olympic run.

“At the time I was dealing with a lot of change and a lot of hurt. I feel like that fueled me at the time,” Moore said. “You can fight with emotion, you can fight with anger, but with those things, it’s a short-lived flame. What outlasts everything else is finding out what is at your core and that’s where a lot of the passion comes from.”

Her time is currently split between the training center in



PHOTO FROM AMELIA MOORE'S INSTAGRAM PAGE

Amelia Moore, 29, prepares for the final step in the Tokyo 2020 qualification process in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Colorado Springs and her home in Greenbelt. However, Moore said that as a three-year resident of Greenbelt, the city gave her the sense of community she was seeking.

“It fit what I needed at the time, but it also fit my principles and morals. I love Greenbelt,” she said. “I love that I can go into the grocery store and everyone knows who I am. It has that hometown feel and the community really, really cares.”

With her eyes on Tokyo 2020, Moore said that she plans to bring this sense of community and her personality to the international stage as a way to inspire people around the world to break the cycles of their pasts.

“This has been a life journey for me and becoming the person that I want to be,” she said. “When you finally decide to take an internal stand and own everything you do, it’s really powerful. It’s clarifying and I feel like that’s been huge for me.”

Moore is taking her goal and her training in Colorado Springs seriously. “We train six days a week, but for me, I train seven,” she said. “I’m just a workhorse.”

To support her lifestyle as an elite athlete, Moore maintains two jobs – as an accountant and tour guide at the Olympic Training Center – in addition to her around-the-clock training. The majority of her free time is spent advocating for herself as a boxer or working with youth boxing and children in the local area.

When asked about her long-term aspirations as an athlete,

Moore said she only wants to continue exceeding her own expectations. “Your focus has to be on one summit. Right now, that’s taking gold at the Olympics; however, I am open to any opportunities when they present themselves.”

Moore’s final test in the Olympic qualification process will take place in Sofia, Bulgaria, at the Strandja Tournament that runs from January 19 to 26. A competitor and alternate to compete in Tokyo 2020 will be announced for each weight class on January 31.

To learn more about Moore’s journey, visit her website at ameliamooreboxing.com.

Brogan Gerhart is a student in journalism at the University of Maryland reporting for the News Review.

The Bus: Kids Ride Free

Students ages 5-18 can ride The Bus for free all day Monday through Friday, during regular and modified service hours. Students must present proper identification to the bus driver to be eligible to ride for free.

College Park Hosts Opera Music Concert

The College Park Choral Concert presents music from operas on Sunday, January 26 from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Andrew’s Church on College Avenue in College Park.

The Choral and Chamber Singers present music by Puccini, Verdi, Bernstein, Gershwin, Gilbert and Sullivan and more. A reception will follow the concert.



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3 Bedroom Townhome Refinished Oak hardwood flooring on both levels. Fenced backyard opens onto protected woodlands. Priced to sell at \$149,900.

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2 Bedroom Townhome Priced to sell! Modern tub surround in bathroom. Upgraded cabs. & dishwasher in kit. Separate laundry area. \$124,900

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Townhome w/Garage 2 br home in the heart of Greenbelt. Large 11' x 17' master br. Remodeled kitchen with granite counters. Shaded backyard w/patio.

Townhome with 2 additions 2 bedroom GHI home on fenced, corner lot. Large family room addition in back, extra storage in front. Central HVAC.

4 Bedroom 3 Level Townhome Master bedroom & full bath on main level. Opened remodeled kitchen, fireplace in lr. Backs to protected woodlands.

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Greenbelt Condominium Remodeled 2 br condo with modern kitchen & extra cabinets. Full bath with tub surround use. Remodeled ceramic-tiled bath.

Addition - Backs to Woodlands Completely remodeled throughout; half bath on main level. Zoned HVAC system. Fenced yard, shed & raised deck.

Brick Townhome 2 Bedroom GHI townhome remodeled throughout. Modern kitchen with s/s dishwasher. Hardwood both levels. \$169,900

Greenbriar 2 Bedroom, 2 Greenbelt Condominium w/ new kitchen and laminate flooring. Nice! Owners looking for cash buyers at \$129,900.

Upper Level One Bedroom GHI home with full-sized washer and dryer in separate laundry room. Refinished hardwood flooring throughout. Nice!

Your Greenbelt Specialists
In Roosevelt Center

Annual Christmas Bird Count Attracts Many Local Volunteers

by John Stith

At the first sunrise of 2020, 99 volunteers spread out to count as many birds as possible in the Bowie Circle of the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This annual event gathers data for ornithologists studying the distribution and population trends of thousands of bird species throughout the Americas.

The CBC is comprised of hundreds of 15-mile diameter circles, with volunteers counting birds within each circle on a set day between mid-December and early January each year. The Bowie Circle count has been done annually since 1972. The area covered by this circle includes Greenbelt and vicinity and some places local birders rate as their favorites: the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Patuxent Research Refuge and Maryland Sunrise Farm in Gambrills.

Here in Greenbelt, birders were out as early as 6 a.m. listening for the Barred Owl recently sighted in Schrom Hills Park. By 7:30 a.m., a larger group of volunteers was circling Greenbelt Lake, binoculars in hand. Later in the morning, six Killdeer were spotted on the exposed mudflats at the lake. Killdeer are fairly unusual in the Maryland suburbs and Greenbelt's six were the largest group found in the Bowie Circle this year.

This year's volunteers included three youth birders, who with their keen eyes found the only Yellow-bellied Sapsucker counted in Greenbelt. The sapsucker, one of Maryland's seven woodpecker species, is present in Greenbelt from fall into early spring but doesn't nest here.

In the late morning a group surveyed the section of Greenbelt Park that lies on the east side of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. This property requires a permit to enter, which the National Park Service granted for the count. A relatively uncommon Swamp Sparrow was sighted at the edge of the wetlands at the heart of the tract, but few other birds were audible or visible there this January 1, possibly because of the significant traffic noise the Parkway generates.

In the afternoon many birds are much quieter, so it's a good time to count ducks and other easily visible species. No waterfowl were found at the new retention pond between Cherrywood Lane and Indian Creek, but the ponds of Greenbelt East were much more productive. The trees, brush and water of the large retention pond across Ora Glen Drive from the Greenbelt Post Office attract a good variety of visible species. Another rich



PHOTO BY MONICA MISCHKE

The drawdown of Greenbelt Lake has provided new opportunities for bird species not commonly found in Greenbelt. Local birder Shalom Fisher (not pictured) found six Killdeer on the temporary mudflats at the Lake. From left are Liam Eisel, Jamie Jorgensen, John Stith and Helen Sommers.

pond lies just south of Greenbrook Drive. It is somewhat visible from the very north end of Schrom Hills Park. This year a number of Hooded Mergansers joined Mallards and Canada Geese at the pond. The 35 Hooded Mergansers found in the Greenbelt area, along with many others throughout the Bowie Circle, created a record-high count this year for this handsome duck species.

At the end of the day, representatives from each part of the Bowie Circle met at a Bowie restaurant for the annual tally rally. Putting their counts together they discovered that the Common Raven continues its resurgence in central Maryland. After setting a new record of five ravens last year, there were 14 found in this year's count.

Another record high this year was for Merlin, a small falcon that is one of the fastest birds

in our skies. Five Merlins were found in this year's count, including one at Lake Artemesia. The count found unusually low numbers of Carolina Chickadees and Tufted Titmice.

In total, 97 species were identified in this year's count across the Bowie Circle. The 13 volunteers in the Greenbelt portion of the circle counted 2,656 birds of 53 different species.

Each species has its own story of how habitat change, climate change and other factors are affecting its range, food supply and population numbers.

The annual Christmas Bird Count is organized by the National Audubon Society. The Bowie Circle is coordinated by the Patuxent Bird Club and the Prince George's Audubon Society, which host regular walks and meetings in College Park and Bowie.



PHOTO BY BARBARA FORD

The new officers for the Greenbelt Golden Age Club are installed by Becky Sutfin at the January 15 meeting. From left are Warren Wilcox, Treasurer; John Henry Jones, 2nd VP; Judy Parker, President; Joyce Bailey, Corresponding Secretary; Joan Baker, Recording Secretary; Randi Anderson, VP; Becky Sutfin, Greenbelt Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor.

Organizational Cooperation Expedites Water Main Repair

by Butch Hicks

It's a bureaucratic success story. A 96-inch circumference water pipe along the well-traveled Belle Point Drive in Greenbelt began leaking in September. Through October and November two bureaucracies and a community-oriented veterans' organization cooperated to avoid water service interruption, potential property damage and traffic routing issues.

The Greenbelt American Legion Post 136, Greenbelt Public Works Department and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) collaborated to address potential issues related to leak-site digging and road bypass construction. Bernie Zempolich, a retired engineer and Post 136 historian, said intermittent discussions with Public Works and WSSC staff indicated a planning meeting was needed to address specific activities and determine how the groups could interact and expedite pipe repairs.

The three organizations met on September 25 at the Post. WSSC described known leaking problems with the failure of a 30-year-old joint that joined the 96-inch main with a smaller water delivery pipe.

Resolution of the problem would require a Belle Pointe bypass road that would encroach on the Post's parking lot. Zempolich said alternative bypass road placements were considered to minimize the number of parking spots lost. "We know the Post is a favorite locale for not only American Legion activities but for various events conducted by

Greenbelt and surrounding communities' residents," he said. "And on certain evenings the parking lot is full with members, guests and local residents dining at the Post's restaurant. Loss of parking spaces could have a temporary economic impact on the Post's operation. But we also knew that the Post is a community organization. We had to do our part to support repair of the leaking pipe. WSSC had to do the work and Public Works had to ensure that the community was best served with continued water supply and as little inconvenience with roadway issues as possible. All three organizations cooperated with actions that served the community with a continuing water supply, limited Post parking lot damage and no injuries."

Public Works Assistant Director Brian Townsend said the repair of the water pipe was an example of organizational cooperation without falling into bureaucratic delays. He said a quick response was imperative. There was water on a sod area by the American Legion parking lot and cracks on Greenbelt Road. A traffic control plan was developed with the assistance of the Post to help prevent closing Belle Pointe Drive and all that meant for the inconvenience of businesses and residents. Townsend added, "Planning and cooperation for all involved ensured we completed the job in a timely manner with as little community inconvenience as possible."



PHOTO BY BUTCH HICKS

WSSC crews excavate land around Belle Pointe Drive. The American Legion Post 136 is in the background.

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